

22 SEP 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

[REDACTED]  
Deputy to the DCI for Resource Management

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Declassification of "Fact of"  
Satellite Photoreconnaissance (C)

1. Last night you asked me to check with the Intelligence Community implementation working group on the tight schedule for the implementation of the declassification of the "fact of" satellite photoreconnaissance. The following is a brief summary of our problems and concerns in this area.

2. The schedule for the implementation of the declassification of the "fact of" satellite reconnaissance requires that DCI, State, and ACDA draft implementation plans be submitted to the White House staff by COB, Tuesday, 26 September. A memorandum to the President will then be prepared, coordinated, and submitted to the President for decision. Thus, a decision will be made as early as 27 September. Since the Presidential announcement is now scheduled for 1 October, we would then have at most three working days to implement the Presidential decision prior to the announcement.

3. We are currently working on our implementation plan and we expect to meet the Tuesday deadline. However, there is inadequate time available for internal review and coordination; consequently, there is a risk that we might overlook something important.

4. On the other hand, we are concerned that the current schedule permits at most three working days for the implementation of the Presidential decision. During this time period we have to notify all cleared personnel of the decision and clarify its limitations for them so that they do not mistakenly release other sensitive information. We are concerned here with "facts about" the imagery program and all aspects of [REDACTED] satellite reconnaissance program, including the "fact of".

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SUBJECT: Implementation of the Declassification of "Fact of" Satellite  
Photoreconnaissance (C)

We are especially concerned that Congressional leaders and non-intelligence executive branch personnel be fully advised on such limitations so that discussion of, for example, specific SALT monitoring tasks does not disclose sensitive capabilities. As you know, there are a large number of cleared personnel, in Government, military services, and industry. Proper notification of all organizations and personnel is estimated to require about 2 weeks.



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6. To summarize, then, I want to reiterate my support for the declassification of the "fact of". However, we must allow enough time for a sensible program to be carried out.



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Photoreconnaissance (C)

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